

REFLECTIONS ON REPRESENTING
THE 27TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS**HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest and most sincere appreciation to my colleagues of this Congress, and the constituents of South Texas, which has been part of my life while representing the 27th Congressional District of Texas for close to 28 years. I have had the distinct honor to serve as an elected official for the past 46 years, beginning at the ripe age of 27 as a County Constable, County Commissioner, County Sheriff, and finally as a Member of Congress.

I leave many great memories of my time in the Halls of Congress and in the U.S. House of Representatives. Those vivid memories of my arrival that cold winter day in Washington, shortly after the victorious election of 1982, will live on forever. I remember driving around the Capitol and through Washington, DC; the opportunity was great; the moment was there; I had been granted the chance to represent hundreds of thousands of constituents from Deep South Texas.

Today, as I retire from the distinguished House of Representatives, I reflect on the past with satisfaction as I look forward to the future with enthusiasm for the next chapter of what life has to offer. I will be spending well-deserved time with my beautiful children—Solomon Jr. and Yvette—as well as my grandson, Oscar, and the rest of my family. I look forward to a much less hectic life. I must admit, I will miss my colleagues—both Democrats and Republicans—and will miss representing some of the most loving, caring, amazing and interesting people of Texas—the constituents of the 27th Congressional District of Texas.

To my friends, supporters and those who have been with me since I was first elected to office in 1964 at the age of 27, from the very bottom of my heart, I thank you for standing by me and with me through it all. Words cannot tell how much I appreciate the love and support you have shown me and my family over the years. Thank you for the good memories and endless accomplishments; thank you for your vote of confidence and for believing in me; thank you for your love and words of encouragement as I worked to be the voice for all the people of South Texas, including minorities, the middle class, poor, vulnerable, and less fortunate.

As I deliver these last few words in the House of Representatives, I am at ease and peace with myself, my family, my colleagues in Congress, my constituents, life and most importantly, I am at ease with God. I truly believe that through our work and significant contributions during my years of service in Congress, we leave South Texas better than before. A more vibrant, economic-friendly and socially developed South Texas. Through the work of local, county, state and federal officials we were able to accomplish great deeds.

Thousands of memories from experiences in my service remain part of the tapestry of my

life and always will. I remember the votes on war . . . on economic justice. The battles for bases and 21st Century transportation in South Texas . . . fights and alliances with White House occupants . . . all I remember and savor—whether my side prevailed or not.

This is a great place—despite the shortcomings . . . despite the pettiness of our members from time to time, and despite the dangerous political climate created by those who turned cable news shows into political juggernauts. Democracy is by no means perfect . . . but it still beats all the alternatives.

I leave the national stage, certain of having done the right thing for those I represented. In the thousands of votes I cast in Congress for the 27th Congressional District of Texas, time and time again, I voted to make South Texas and this nation a better and stronger place.

I end my public service with an appropriate verse from Robert Frost's "The Road Not Taken."

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

It certainly has made all the difference.
I yield back my time, for the last time.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF LOUIS FINKEL TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of a valued staff member of the Committee on Science and Technology, my Chief of Staff, Louis Finkel. While Louis still has decisions to make about his future, I've already made my choice. He may remain with the Committee or with the House, but after next week, I no longer will and I wanted to take this opportunity to thank him for his service.

Louis worked for me in my personal office from 1996 to 2001 in several positions, including Legislative Director. He also worked in the office of former Representative Peter Deutsch (D-FL) and in the private sector, representing the interests of educational institutions, nonprofits, and technology and energy companies.

Louis was one of the first hires I made when we took over the majority. I have always said I wanted this to be the Committee of "good ideas and consensus;" and Louis was key to implementing that pledge, with his balance of Hill and private sector experience. He was responsible for steering our committee agenda and organizing our efforts to reach out to folks interested in the business of the committee. He performed that exceedingly well, and when my long-time Chief of Staff retired, there was no one but Louis I could think of to fill the role. He was able to provide a seamless transition and we didn't miss a beat. It helped that he came into the Chief of Staff role with a deep knowledge of the Committee's work, as well as the respect of Members, staff, and the outside community.

The Chief of Staff is a challenging job: you need to not only be able to see the big picture, but also the details. Louis has the ability to row but also to steer. He has mastered the policy, politics and management aspects of the job.

Louis has said that there may be people that are smarter than his is, but there are few that are willing to work harder than he is. That drive and preparation has paid off, and I have been the beneficiary.

When he's not overachieving at work, he may be doing it in the kitchen, where he loves to impress family and friends with his command of the culinary arts.

Louis, I thank you for all your counsel and tireless efforts, and I thank Stacey, Max, and Caleb for their support. I will certainly miss working with you day to day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I was not able to be present for the following rollcall vote on December 17, 2010, and would like the record to reflect that I would have voted as follows: rollcall No. 656: "yes."

REDUCTION OF LEAD IN DRINKING WATER ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to address the House for one minute.

I rise in strong support of S. 3874, the Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act. This bill amends the Safe Drinking Water Act to uniformly reduce the allowable lead content in solder, flux, pipe and fixtures.

It is important to strengthen and clarify national standards for lead in drinking water. Our families and children should feel comfortable knowing that the water they drink is safe. In my district, California's 43rd, we are faced with many water issues and the most severe is perchlorate found in our ground water. Our drinking water was compromised.

No one should have water compromised by perchlorate or lead. This bill is a positive step forward in eliminating the serious health threats and economic burdens caused by lead exposure.

In California, we have a new lead free standard that requires manufacturers to phase out potential exposure from materials in drinking water plumbing by this year. With S. 3874, families in other states will have greater protection from lead exposure.

I urge my colleagues to show their commitment to the safety of America's families and support S. 3874, the Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act.

MICAH SPRINGER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Micah Springer for her outstanding service to our community.

For Micah, Yoga is the means to express passion, joy, sorrow and all aspects of vitality. Her studio began in 1999 in the basement of her home and has grown to a three facility business.

In her Golden studio, Micah is collaborating with the Colorado School of Mines. She learned of the high suicide rate among college students, and saw an opportunity to provide a meditative, non-competitive activity. She has created a Yoga program that counts for school credit and introduces young people to the benefits of Yoga.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Micah Springer for being honored by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

**HONORING THE UNIVERSITY OF
WISCONSIN-WHITewater FOOT-
BALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE
NCAA DIVISION III NATIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIP**

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater football team for completing an undefeated season and winning the NCAA Division III National Championship. The victory marks the Warhawks' third national title in the last four years.

UW-Whitewater has achieved tremendous success on the football field—winning six straight Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) championships and earning six consecutive NCAA Division III playoff berths. During a remarkable run under Coach Lance Leipold, the team has amassed a record of 57 and 3 and won 30 consecutive games. On December 18, 2010, the Warhawks defeated the University of Mount Union Purple Raiders in the 2010 Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl to win their second consecutive national title.

UW-Whitewater Chancellor Richard Telfer and Athletic Director Paul Plinske have fostered a culture of excellence that extends into the classroom. Over the years, 80 Warhawk student-athletes have been named WIAC Scholar Athlete of the Year for their sport. In addition, UW-Whitewater student-athletes have achieved a higher grade point average than the student body at large.

The Warhawks could not have reached the zenith of Division III college football without a steadfast fan base. Students, alumni, faculty, staff, and local supporters flood Perkins Stadium wearing the purple and white to cheer on their team. Many loyal fans even traveled to Salem, Virginia to watch the Warhawks win the 2010 Stagg Bowl.

I join others in south central Wisconsin in recognizing the achievements of the players, coaches, students, alumni, and staff who were vital in helping the UW-Whitewater Warhawks win another national football championship.

**H.R. 5281, DEVELOPMENT, RELIEF,
AND EDUCATION FOR ALIEN MI-
NORS**

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the DREAM Act.

This is common sense, bipartisan legislation that is a win for our economy.

First, in this economy, we need the best, the brightest, the most capable and the most qualified to be a part of the American workforce.

This legislation will allow a limited group of very capable, high achieving young people to help contribute to the economic well-being of this country.

These are young people who didn't come to this country through their own free choice.

But, they are young people who have worked hard to graduate high school or obtain a GED.

These are young people who have contributed to their communities and to this country.

If we turn our backs on these students, then we're turning our backs on a qualified and competitive workforce.

Second, Madam Speaker, simply put, this legislation is the right thing to do.

Critics who argue that the DREAM Act would diminish opportunities for students in this country with full citizenship must not know anything about our colleges and universities.

Our Nation's higher education institutions have the capacity to welcome these students, as many already do, without closing the door for other students.

This Congress has passed historic legislation to increase college access and opportunity for all students.

The bill before us today continues to provide that access to a higher education not only by providing these students a path to citizenship, but allowing them access to critical student aid through loans and work-study.

The financial cost of a higher education is too often a barrier to attending higher education.

It is critical that this bill ensures access to student aid, and gives students a chance at affording a higher education.

It is important to note that this bill allows students to enter into a conditional non-immigrant status for an initial period of 5 years, which shall be extended for an additional five years as long as they have fulfilled all requirements for extension.

After 10 years in this conditional status, eligible students may apply for lawful permanent residence. Once applicants receive conditional non-immigrant status, DREAM Act participants, like lawful permanent residents and unlike many nonimmigrants, are considered to be residing in the United States lawfully without being required to maintain a residence outside the U.S. or have an intent to leave the

U.S. As such, conditional nonimmigrants under the DREAM Act should be considered as residents of the states that they reside in when considering tuition rates at public institutions of higher education, as long as they meet all other residency requirements for in-state tuition.

By passing this legislation, we can reward smart, civic-minded, goal-oriented students and provide access to the American dream.

Let's not punish students and the future of this country.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

**HONORING STEPHAN
PASSALACQUA**

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Congresswoman LYNN WOOLSEY, to recognize and honor Sonoma County District Attorney Stephan Passalacqua, who is retiring after a 22-year career as a County Prosecutor. For the past eight years, Mr. Passalacqua served as Sonoma County's elected District Attorney.

As District Attorney, Mr. Passalacqua was instrumental in obtaining \$1.4 million in grant funding and private donations to create the Family Justice Center of Sonoma County, which will be a lasting testament to his service to his community.

He also hosted the first statewide Gang Summit and launched an educational gang prevention program in partnership with Boys and Girls Clubs. This was the first program in the nation to be taught by prosecutors.

His other innovations included co-hosting a Sonoma County Environmental Awareness Forum, hosting multiple Elder Protection Summits, and partnering with community groups to host forums on Internet Safety, Identity Theft and Mortgage Fraud.

He also initiated the first organized activities acknowledging National Crime Victims Rights Week in Sonoma County, which has now become an annual event. The hallmark of his tenure as District Attorney has been his insistence that victims are treated with respect and dignity. He continually worked to raise awareness of victims' rights, to help victims become survivors and to reduce and prevent victimization at the onset.

He has served on several professional boards, including the Institute for the Advancement of Criminal Justice, the Board of Directors of the Sonoma County Bar Association, the Santa Rosa Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force, and as a Professor of Elder Protection Law at Empire College School of Law.

Mr. Passalacqua was born and raised in Sonoma County and he is firmly rooted in his community. In addition to his professional duties, Mr. Passalacqua has served on the Board of Directors of the Valley of the Moon Children's Foundation, the Rotary Club of Santa Rosa, the Advisory Board of Kidstreet Learning Center, the Board of Directors of the Community Support Network of Santa Rosa and as a mentor with Social Advocates for Youth.

Madam Speaker, after 22 years of public service to the people of Sonoma County,